

DATE: 8/2/00

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KECN-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-39)

Mark Shaw - KEWN-4  
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

**Proposed Action:** Asotin Creek Channel, Floodplain, and Riparian Restoration Project

**Project No:** 2000-067-00

**Budget No:** F5626

**Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS):** 1.3 Restoration of Channelized River and Stream Reaches; 1.6 Install Large Woody Debris Structures; 1.7 Install Other Habitat Complexity Structures; 1.8 Bank Protection Through Vegetation Management; 1.9 Structural Bank Protection using Bioengineering Methods; 1.16 Spawning Habitat Enhancements; 1.17 Rearing Habitat Enhancements.

**Location:** Asotin, South Fork Asotin and Charley Creeks in the Asotin Creek Watershed, Asotin County, Washington

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), and the Asotin County Conservation District (ACCD).

**Description of the Proposed Action:** The Asotin Creek Channel, Floodplain, and Riparian Restoration Project includes the following nine individual projects: 1) Asotin Creek Gene Theissen #1, 2) Asotin Creek Frank Koch #2, 3) Charley Creek #1, 4) Charley Creek #2, 5) Charley Creek #3, 6) South Fork Asotin Creek #1, 7) South Fork Asotin Creek #2, 8) South Fork Asotin Creek #3, and 9) South Fork Asotin Creek #4.

The objectives of this project include restoring in-stream fish habitat, re-establishing meander geometry to bankfull discharge dimensions, re-establishing riparian vegetation and re-introducing large woody debris to the stream system. The project involves the installation of instream structures, boulders, large woody debris, and rootwads to increase pools and in-water cover for fish, reduce erosion of streambanks, and encourage the formation of narrower and deeper channels. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and the ACCD will monitor and maintain the project areas for a period of ten years.

**Analysis:** The compliance checklist for this project was completed by the ACCD and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

Snake River spring chinook salmon, Snake River steelhead trout, bull trout, and bald eagle are the potentially affected listed threatened or endangered species in the vicinity of the project. The peregrine falcon is also known to occur in the vicinity of the project but is no longer a federally listed threatened or endangered species. The proposed actions are also within designated critical habitat for ESA listed fish. A Biological Assessment was submitted by the ACCD to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). For USFWS listed species, a determination of “may affect, not likely to adversely affect” was concluded and USFWS concurred with this finding on July 17, 2000. For NMFS listed species, a determination of “may affect, not likely to adversely affect” was concluded. Contingent upon concurrence by NMFS, this proposed action will meet the requirements of NEPA.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conducted a cultural resource examination of the project areas in June 2000. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Nez Perce Tribe were contacted in June 2000. No further contact with the SHPO and the Nez Perce Tribe was made by NRCS as no cultural resource sites were identified within the project areas.

**Findings:** The project is generally consistent with Section 7.6 A, A1, A2, 7.6B, B1-B6, 7.6C, 7.6D, 7.7 & 7.7A, of the Northwest Power Planning Council’s Fish and Wildlife Program. The attached Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD, and; 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Tish K. Levesque

Tish K. Levesque

Environmental Specialist - KECN

CONCUR: /s/ Thomas C. McKinney

Thomas C. McKinney

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 8/2/00

**Attachments:**

NEPA Compliance Checklist

USFWS Concurrence Letter

cc:

B. Johnson – Asotin County Conservation District

K. Nakata – DOE/EH-42

B. Beraud - KECN-4

N. Weintraub - KECN-4

L. Croff - KECP-4

M. Shaw - KEWN-4

P. Key - LC-7

Official File - KECN (EQ-14)

